

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 23A

MIAMI HERALD
13 JANUARY 1983

Around The Americas

Nicaraguan, Cuban assail 'secret war'

Ortega says U.S. trains
regime foes in Florida

By ALFONSO CHARDY
Herald Staff Writer

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaraguan and Cuban delegates denounced the Reagan Administration on Wednesday for conducting a secret war against Nicaragua that has unleashed "a campaign of terror" along its northern border.



Ortega

Sandinista Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, in a keynote speech before a special Nonaligned

Movement conference on Latin America and the Caribbean, charged that the United States uses Florida and two of Nicaragua's neighbor countries to conduct the covert operation.

He said that Washington has used Florida as a "training base" for anti-Sandinista exiles, Honduras as a "military base," from which to stage attacks on Nicaragua, and Costa Rica as a "political base" to spread propaganda against the Nicaraguan government.

"All of this is done to seek the destabilization and destruction" of the Nicaraguan revolution, said Ortega, who is coordinator of the ruling junta and a member of the Sandinista National Directorate.

Ortega, clad in an olive-green uniform, said that the United States has stationed Central Intelligence Agency employees in Honduras and Costa Rica to direct the "clandestine" operations against Nicaragua.

He said the "main threat" to Nicaragua came from Honduras, where he said the United States had "armed and organized" 7,000 former members of deposed President Anastasio Somoza's National Guard.

Ortega added, however, that Costa Rica was a source of concern for Nicaragua because "it allowed its territory" to be used for "sabotage operations and propaganda" against Managua.

He said Nicaraguan intelligence information shows that there are at least two clandestine radio stations within Costa Rica, being used by the anti-Sandinista forces to gather military information about Nicaragua and to broadcast anti-Sandinista propaganda.

Ortega said the United States has dispatched spy planes to fly over Nicaraguan territory and has placed warships near Nicaraguan shores.

"As a result of all this," said Ortega, "we have suffered more than 500 attacks against our territory, in which more than 400 Nicaraguans have been killed, wounded or kidnapped since 1979.

"This situation has created a campaign of terror along our borders," Ortega told the members of 117 foreign delegations of the Non-aligned Movement attending the formal opening ceremony of the conference at the Ruben Dario Theater in downtown Managua.

Acknowledging that the Non-aligned Movement includes nations that do not fully agree with Nicaragua's position, Ortega, nonetheless, urged members to approve the conference's final communique, which contains the essential Nicaraguan viewpoint on the Central American crisis.

A key paragraph in the proposed communique states that "the delegates agreed to call on the United States government to cease intervention and interference in the internal affairs of the region and to adopt a more constructive position in favor of peace and dialogue."

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, addressing the conference after Ortega, read a message from President Fidel Castro, nominal head of the Nonaligned Movement, which said: "This conference should be an expression of solidarity and support for the government of Nicaragua."

It said that the U.S. answer to "popular insurrections" in the region is "aggression," and went on to note recent reports in the U.S. press "denouncing the CIA war against Nicaragua, which could lead to the regionalization of the Central American conflict and then, perhaps, to a military intervention by the United States."

The appeals by Ortega and Castro came after a growing number of nations at the conference reportedly objected to the harsh anti-Americanism of the communique, drafted by Nicaragua as the host nation.

The Nicaraguans already have softened the declaration, except for the Central American portions, and have agreed to further revisions, but U.S. diplomats monitoring the five-day conference say they are still not satisfied because the proposed document "remains largely a Cuban-Nicaraguan statement of policy against the United States."

In an interview with the Sandinista newspaper Barricada, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto charged that U.S. diplomats have "warned" several conference participants that their relations with Washington would undergo "revisions" depending on their position on the final document.

File Only